

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (canceled)

5 13. (Currently amended) A rinsing cell for rinsing electrolyte from the end of a tubing, the tubing being disposed in the rinsing cell under an operative condition, which comprises:

a housing having a rinse chamber disposed about an axis R, the housing having an opening for receiving the tubing such that the tubing extends from the exterior of the

10 cell to the interior of the cell under the operative condition and the housing having a bottom surface which faces in the axial direction which bounds the rinse chamber, the rinse chamber having a bottom adjacent the bottom surface;

a guide member extending axially from the bottom of the chamber toward the opening;

15 a first conduit for supplying rinse fluid to the rinse chamber under operative conditions;

a second conduit for removing rinse fluid from the rinse chamber under operative conditions;

wherein the housing has a plurality of passages disposed circumferentially about the

20 guide member and directed toward the chamber; wherein at least one of said passages is in flow communication with said first conduit for directing rinse fluid toward the tubing under said operative condition.

14. (Original) The rinsing cell of claim 13 wherein the housing has a circumferential manifold which is in flow communication with said first conduit and in flow communication with said plurality of passages for supplying rinse fluid to the plurality of passages.

15. (Currently amended) The rinsing cell of claim 13 wherein said axis R extends vertically and wherein at least one [[on]] of said impingement passages in the housing is angled with respect to the axis R and in a generally downward direction toward the bottom of the rinse chamber.

16. (Original) The rinsing cell of claim 13 wherein the tubing has an inner surface which extends circumferentially about the tubing and wherein the guide member is

extending passage which extends from the bottom of the chamber and has a plurality of impingement passages directed toward the inner surface of the tubing under said operative condition for impinging rinse fluid on the inner surface of the tubing.

5 17. (Original) The rinsing cell of claim 16 wherein guide member has a base adjacent to bottom of the chamber and wherein the base has a plurality of axially extending slots which are circumferentially spaced one from the other.

18. (Original) The rinsing cell of claim 13 wherein wherein the cell has an opening for receiving said tubing under said operative condition and wherein the opening guides said tubing as the tubing is disposed in the rinsing cell.

Claims 19-21 (Withdrawn)